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All applications respecting subscription to the "Board of Trade Journal," or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London, to Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street.

The principal publications of the Board of Trade will be found in a list facing p. iv. of the advertisements, and a list of the Annual and Miscellaneous Reports and the Treaty Series issued by the Foreign Office, and of the Reports issued by the Colonial Office on pp. 286-7.

A note of specially interesting subjects dealt with in the Trade Reports published by the Foreign Office, since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal," will be found on pp. 282-4.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive

Tenders for Railway Material.

tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply cast-iron chairs (5,445 tons) and steel axles for carriages and waggons for use on the Indian State Railways.

The conditions of contract may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.), or may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W. Tenders are to be delivered at that office by two o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 12th May, after which time no tender will be received.

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Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

Tenders for Mild Steel Joists and Bulb Tees.

A notification has been received at the Board of Trade from the East Indian Railway Company to the effect that the Company is prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of—

Mild steel joists and bulb tees

as per specification to be seen at the Company's offices, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Steel Joists, &c.," not later than 1 p.m. on Wednesday, the 13th May.

The Company reserves to itself the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

For each specification a fee of 1*l.* 1*s.* is charged, which cannot under any circumstances be returned.

Tenders for Pig-Iron.

The East Indian Railway Company is also prepared to receive tenders, upon the Company's general conditions of contract, for the supply at Calcutta of:—

500 tons of pig-iron, Gartsherrie, No. 3
50 " " " " 4

to be despatched from this country by direct A1 steamers.

The different descriptions of iron are not to be shipped by the same steamer.

The iron is to be delivered at Calcutta within two months after the date of acceptance of tender into craft to be supplied by the Company within the limits of the port.

The Company's form of bill of lading is to be used, and the bills of lading are to be signed for definite quantities of iron.

Power is reserved to the Company's Consulting Engineers of having any number of pigs broken, at their discretion, to enable them to determine the quality of the iron. The cost of breaking the pigs, and of all other tests, must be borne by the contractor.

Each pig must be marked with metallic paint as may be directed by the Company's Consulting Engineers, and the marks must be noted in the Inspector's certificates and in the invoices so that the metals can be identified upon arrival in India.

Payment will be made as follows, viz.:—Four-fifths of the amount within four weeks after the delivery of the bills of lading and policy of insurance on Lloyd's, or first-class London offices to be approved by the Board (the policies to cover all risks of craft until delivered at the Company's wharf at Calcutta), and the remaining one-fifth upon the receipt of satisfactory out-turn certificates from the Company's Agent at Calcutta.

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary to the Company, Nicholas

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

Lane, London, E.C., marked "Tender for Pig-iron," not later than 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th May.

The Company reserves to itself the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Tenders for Locomotives, Goods Waggons, &c.

The Board of Trade have been notified by the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, that the Company is prepared to receive tenders for the supply of:—

1. Locomotives (5), six wheels, coupled with tenders.
2. Carriage underframes (23), covered goods waggons of steel (70), underframes for covered goods waggons (43).
3. Wheels and axles, disc and spoke, 543 pairs.
4. Laminated bearing springs (1,320).

Specification and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's offices, 55, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Tenders, addressed to the Chairman and Directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, marked "Tender for Locomotives," or, as the case may be, must be left with the Managing Director of the Company not later than 12 noon, of Tuesday, the 19th May.

The Company is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

A charge, which will not be returned, will be made of 2*l.* for each copy of specification No. 1, and of 1*l.* for each copy of Nos. 2, 3 and 4.

The drawings of the locomotives may be inspected at the office of Sir George B. Bruce, No. 3, Victoria Street, Westminster; and copies of the drawings of the rolling stock, wheels and springs, may be obtained at the same address on payment of 5*s.* per sheet.

BRITISH INDIA—BURMA.

Electric Lighting and Power Plant for Insein Workshops.

The "Indian and Eastern Engineer" for April announces that tenders will be received up to the 26th June next by the Locomotive and Carriage Superintendent of the Burma Railways Company, Limited, Insein, Burma, for an electric installation, of which full particulars, including conditions of contract, specification and form of tender, may be obtained on application to the Superintendent by persons who may be desirous of submitting tenders for the same.

Openings for British Trade.

CEYLON.

Supplies of Open Wove Bleached Bandages.

The Government of Ceylon from time to time requires supplies of open wove bleached bandages 6 yards by 2 inches, and a sample of the pattern preferred has been lodged with the Crown Agents for the Colonies. This sample can be seen by any British manufacturer on personal application in Downing Street, and quotations may be sent in to the Crown Agents up to the 30th May. Those firms who have already been communicated with by the Crown Agents need not of course apply again.

Machine wanted for Husking Areca Nuts.

In the "Ceylon Observer" of 2nd April a planter draws attention to the need for some kind of machine for husking areca nuts. He says that he is a grower of arecas in large quantities, and he finds, in common with others similarly situated, that without a machine to husk them, when ripe or in a dried state, he is at a disadvantage, and the village moorman has the greatest benefit from the labour and time and money expended. He wonders whether some inventive genius can produce an "areca husking machine" by hand power, for, if so, he predicts a large sale of such machines.

CANADA.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the **Canadian Government Offices, Victoria Street, S.W.**, where further information may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—An enquiry has been received from the north of England for names of Canadian lumber firms in a position to export 32-inch spade and shovel box or D-handles (English pattern); also shovel stems 32, 29, and 34 by 1½ inch diameter.

Application has been made by a London firm for the addresses of the leading houses in Canada dealing in whips, rattan (reed) furniture, and brushes.

A London firm of tea buyers and shippers wish to find agents in Canada open to do business in this connection. They are also prepared to act as buying or selling agents for good Canadian firms.

An English firm ask to be referred to leading saddlers and saddlers' hardware dealers in Canada with a view to introducing a patent article likely to be adopted.

Canadian Enquiry.—A Canadian drug firm having connections throughout Canada and Newfoundland wish to take up the

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

representation of English manufacturers of fruit ethers, vanillin, essential oils and proprietary articles.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute,** from the Curator of which Section further particulars may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A manufacturer of grain-weighing machinery, sack stands and other specialities wishes to be placed in communication with a responsible Canadian firm prepared to deal in this class of goods.

A firm of mica merchants ask for addresses of leading Canadian producers of mica.

A firm of manufacturers' agents, long established and possessing influential connection, wish to secure representation of a Canadian manufacturer of chair materials in large quantities.

A timber merchant wishes to hear from a Canadian manufacturer who can actually supply doors, shelving, carpenters' clear pine, poplar, &c.

Canadian Enquiries.—A British Columbia shipping firm ask to be put into communication with United Kingdom firms requiring supplies of sashes, doors and similar goods made from Douglas fir (Oregon pine), more particularly for South Africa and other export trade.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Curator of the Canadian Section of the Imperial Institute, S.W.

EGYPT.

General Stores, Clothing, &c.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" of 22nd April contains a notification to the effect that tenders will be received at the headquarters of the Coastguard Administration at Cairo, up to noon on the 1st July, for the supply of general stores, clothing, wood, &c., in such quantities as may be required by the Administration, for a period of one year.

The specifications and conditions of contract can be seen and samples inspected at the Coastguard Magazine, Alexandria, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon any day, except Sundays and general holidays.

Tenders must be submitted on the printed form provided for the

Openings for British Trade.

purpose, which can be obtained at the Magazine of the Administration and must be accompanied by stamped paper and addressed:—

"The Director-General, Coastguard Administration, Cairo, and marked "Tender for the supply of . . . . ."

It should be noted that the [actual] tenderers must be persons residing in Egypt (Alexandria). As a guarantee of good faith, each tender must be accompanied by a guarantee from a local bank to the amount of 10 per cent. on the total value of the offer.

All tenders must be in Egyptian money (viz., 975 millièmes to the pound sterling) and in metric weights and measures, as laid down in the printed specification. The price must be for free delivery at the Coastguard Magazine, Alexandria (Arsenal). Only stores imported from abroad with a declaration on the bill of lading that they are for the use of the Coastguard Administration, will be exempted from the 8 per cent. Customs duty.

No tender offered to this Administration, in the name of more than one person or a firm, will be accepted unless accompanied by a certified copy of the Act of Association. This Act must indicate clearly the name, nationality, and residence of each partner of the firm and powers as regards encashments, &c., of each individual member of it.

Unless the above formalities are complied with, tenders will not be considered.

The Administration reserves to itself the right to accept the whole or part of, but does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

NORWAY.

Tenders for Bolts and Nails.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, transmitting particulars of a call for tenders by the Norwegian State Railways for the supply of bolts and nails to the Ofoten line, as follows:—

Bolts—about 19,000 kilogs., namely:—

5,000 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. holdfasts, with slit 60 cm. long.
3,000 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. „ „ 40 cm. „
5,200 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. „ „ 30 cm. „
1,250 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. screw-bolts, with heads and nuts 55 cm. long.

The 60 cm. and 40 cm. long holdfasts to be provided with three holes, and the 30 cm. long holdfasts with two holes, for 6 in. nails.

Further there are required:—

35 half-boxes of 3 in. nails.
60 „ 4 in. „
30 „ 6 in. „
30 „ 7 in. „

Tenders for these goods, marked respectively "Bolte" and

Openings for British Trade.

NORWAY—*continued.*

"Spiger," will be received up to noon of Friday, the 15th May, at Overingeniörens Kontor, Narvik, Norway. Telegrams must bear the mark immediately after the address. For further particulars application should be made to the office of the Railway Director in Christiania, or the office of the Head Engineer, in Narvik, as above.

Apart from the usual Customs duties, a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

Material for Upholstering Railway Carriages.

H.M. Consul-General at Christiania further reports that tenders in sealed envelopes, marked "Vognudstyr," for the delivery of 155 metres of "Moquette" stuff for covering seats, and 1,785 metres of woollen curtain stuff in various qualities, will be received at "Styrelsens Expeditions, Kontor, Statsbanerne, Christiania," up to 3 p.m. of Tuesday, the 26th May.

The right is reserved to accept part or all of any tender, or to refuse them all.

Conditions and samples may be inspected at the office of the Director of Machinery, Norwegian State Railways, Christiania.

Apart from the usual customs duties, a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

Tenders for Army Equipment.

In a later despatch, the Consul-General reports that tenders are invited for various details of army equipment, as follows:—

4,000	mètres	dark blue dress cloth } 140 cm. wide.
10,000	,,	light cloth } 140 cm. wide.
1,000	,,	light grey cloth for cloaks } 140 cm. wide.
2,500	blankets.	
8,000	mètres	blue-striped linen.
20,000	,,	twill 3^{70}.
10,000	,,	,, 3^{99}.
5,000	,,	cloth for shelter tents.
5,000	,,	tent cloth, T^3.
500	,,	,, ,, T^2.
1,000	,,	,, ,, T^1.
6,000	,,	buldan (a kind of canvas).
2,000	,,	canvas cloth.
2,000	infantry waist belts.	
2,000	bayonet sheaths.	
6,000	cartridge pouches.	
100	sword belts for artillery N.C.O's.	
500	pieces of skin for riding breeches.	
250	,,	,, ,, "tongues" (Plöser).

Openings for British Trade.

NORWAY—*continued.*

2,000 combs (Kardasker).
1,000 curry combs.
1,000 halters.
1,000 knapsacks.
4,000 clothes brushes.
4,000 boot brushes.
3,000 aluminium canteens.
5,000 tin plates.
20,000 tent pegs.

The patterns and conditions may be inspected at the "Hovedforvalte" depôt.

Tenders sealed and marked "Lererance til Armeen" must arrive at the Generalintendant's Office, Christiania, before 10 a.m. on Monday 25th May.

Apart from the usual Customs duties a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

Tenders for Soap and Soda.

The Consul-General also reports that tenders will be received up to the 15th May, at the "Marinens Intendantur," Karljohansvern, Norway, for the delivery of the following quantities of soap and soda :—

20,000 kilogs. of soft soap half in $\frac{1}{8}$ barrels and half in $\frac{1}{4}$ barrels,
200 „ „ toilet soap,
4,000 „ „ soap in bars,
5,000 „ „ soda.

The articles supplied are to be of good quality and delivered free at Karljohansvern. About one-fifth must be delivered before the 30th May, the rest gradually as required up to 31st March, 1904.

The soft soap must be delivered free in kegs. The soap will not be received in old butter kegs.

The "Intendantur" is not obliged to take the lowest or indeed any tender.

In cases where the tender deals with many kinds of stuff, the right is reserved of taking only one.

The tenders must hold good for 8 to 10 days. The head "Intendantur" can demand a guarantee of delivery.

If the delivery is not carried out by the fixed time the "Intendantur" has the right to buy goods from another firm at the cost and risk of the deliverer.

Tenders, which must be sent in before the above date, must be enclosed in sealed envelopes marked "Anbud paa Sœbe and Soda," and will be opened on 15th May at 1 p.m., and tenderers or their representatives may be at the place and hear the prices read.

Apart from the usual Customs duties, a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to native manufacturers.

Openings for British Trade.

FRANCE.

Ploughs.

In his recent report, the British Vice-Consul at St. Malo states that farmers there are taking to a plough known as the Brabant, a plough with a double turn furrow, which leaves a perfectly flat surface, with no open furrow, and can be worked by one man even with three horses. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,955.)

FRANCE—MADAGASCAR.

Cotton Goods.

According to the "Politique Coloniale" (Paris), a report has recently been made by the Governor-General of Madagascar, at the request of the French Colonial Office, upon the trade in cotton piece-goods in that island.

It is stated that up to the time of the French occupation this trade was entirely in the hands of the British and Americans. It is only during the last two or three years, owing to Tariff protection, that France has commenced to supplant her competitors.

It appears from the report that the natives of the islands set greater store upon colour than upon design, the following being the more favoured in order of preference:—Blue, rose, green, straw-yellow, cream-yellow, and iron-grey.

In the central districts the young women have a liking for delicate rose, sky-blue, or yellowish tints. Generally speaking, bright-coloured stuffs find a ready sale.

It is remarkable, however, that in the Tuléar region, on the west coast, the natives show a marked preference for dark-hued cloths.

Flowers are a favourite design, and the report lays stress on the fact that in striped patterns the stripe should always run longitudinally.

It must not be forgotten that so much is thought of the colours of the goods that even quality must, if necessary, be sacrificed.

PORTUGAL.

Railway Construction.

With reference to the announcement which appeared on p. 473 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th March last regarding the construction and working of a railway from Regna by Villa Real to Chavés and the frontier, it is to be noted that the "Diario do Governo" of 27th April contains a Decree confirming the estimate of 305,104 milreis, or about 50,852*l*., for the section of the line between Regna and Villa Real, not including fixed and rolling stock, and ordering that the construction of the section be immediately commenced, either by sub-sections or by piece-work.

Openings for British Trade.

PORTUGAL—*continued.*

Railway Construction.

The "Diario do Governo" of 1st May, contains a notice calling for tenders, which will be opened within not less than 90 days, for the construction and working, in the terms of paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Law of 14th July, 1899, of the following metre gauge railways:—

Valley of the Lima (Vianna to Ponte da Barca),
Of the Upper Minho (Braga to Monçao),
Braga to Guimarães.

The plan of the competition and the respective tables of requirements are to be drawn up in harmony with the bases which form part of the Decree, and which are given in the "Diario." A provisional deposit of 4,000 milreis, or about 666*l.*, is required to qualify any tender.

The "Diarios" containing the above notices may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

GREECE.

Hardware, Crockery, Glassware, Leather Goods, Carpets, &c.

On p. 256 will be found an article relating to British trade in the Morea, in which it is stated that if British manufacturers could see their way to reduce the quality and price of many classes of goods, such as hardware, cutlery, china, crockery, glassware, leather goods, carpets, &c., they would obtain a large share of the trade which is now in foreign hands.

Irish Linen and Laces.

H.M. Consul at Syra reports that cotton, linen and woollen stuffs coming from the United Kingdom are chiefly in the hands of Greek merchants established in Manchester, and there is little room for competition. Irish linen and laces, however, could be worked up more. Italy and Belgium are making headway as competitors in these markets for tissues of all kinds, the quality and price being spoken of in favourable terms. In shirtings the United Kingdom easily holds her own.

Machinery Accessories.

The Consul further reports that a new departure was started in 1902 in the shape of a factory for making linseed oil and chemical products, for which Austro-Hungarian machinery is employed on the "Merz" system, with an average output, so far, of 300 gallons per diem, at a price of 3*s.* 5*d.* per gallon. The linseed is imported from Marseilles, Antwerp and Asia Minor. The outlay on this establishment was about 6,250*l.* Colza oil is also being produced at 2*s.* 6*d.* per gallon.

A new yarn factory is being established at Syra, which is expected to be in full swing in the summer. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,957.)

Openings for British Trade.

BULGARIA.

Buyers Wanted for "Essence of Roses."

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Sofia, reporting the desire of the "Syndicat des Producteurs d'Essence de Roses" at Karlovo to enter into relations with buyers in England. The object of this society, it is said, is to produce a perfectly pure oil and restore the credit of this Bulgarian industry.

Further particulars may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

SERVIA.

Articles in which British Trade might be increased.

In his recent report on the trade of Servia for the year 1902, the British Vice-Consul at Belgrade gives the following table showing the average value of the different articles of import into Servia for five years, the average value of British imports for the same time, and the value of British imports in 1901 :—

Articles.	Average Yearly Import from 1896–1900.		British Imports in 1901.
	Total.	British.	
	£	£	£
Paper...	39,006	10	26
Agricultural produce	78,102	—	—
Wool and hair	162,240	22,506	9,773
Wood and timber	86,101	53	85
Animals and animal produce	25,962	15	—
Provisions and beverages	39,260	231	153
Stone, earth and glass	90,375	165	68
Metals	181,528	3,403	5,651
Hides and leather	133,942	9,373	6,648
Chemical produce and colours	101,612	2,087	1,687
Colonial produce, groceries	137,791	12,065	9,399
Oils and fatty substances	65,139	9,106	7,815
Machinery, instruments, &c.	103,694	2,257	156
Cotton, hemp, flax, &c.	328,588	129,686	114,988
Silk	29,404	139	189
Jewellery and fancy goods	47,391	264	123
Haberdashery and embroidery	112,130	146	481
Animal and other waste	125	—	—
Total	1,762,390	191,506	157,242

In several of the above-mentioned articles it ought to be possible to increase the value of British imported goods. The

value of imported paper, for instance, has steadily increased every year from 31,789*l.* in 1896 to 52,698*l.* in 1901, while British paper imported during the latter year was only valued at 26*l.*

The falling-off in British woollen goods is accounted for by the opening of several cloth mills in Servia, which turn out all kinds of all-wool cloths of the second quality for the home market, the wool for which is dyed and spun on the premises. There is every reason to expect that the importation of raw wool may increase with the further prosperity of the Servian cloth mills, but in 1901 the United Kingdom had no share in this branch of the trade.

The value of window glass imported is over 7,600*l.*, all of which comes from Austria-Hungary and Germany, the British form of packing having prevented the development of business, the difference being that cases, packed in the form which prevails in Servia, can be handled single-handed, whereas the larger British cases necessitate the employment of another hand. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,958.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Indian Teas.

H.M. Consul at Chicago in his recent report states that in 1900 the United Kingdom and East Indies together were credited with 5½ per cent. of all tea importation into the United States, while in 1902 this increased to over 10 per cent.

The Consul adds that this is a much more satisfactory return than had been expected, and it seems that there is at last a prospect of Indian teas getting the recognition in the American market that their quality warrants.

China and Earthenware.

In the same report H.M. Consul states that the china and earthenware trade of Chicago has increased about 15 per cent. in 1902, and has been marked by the great demand for better goods. It is reported that fine German and Austrian china has replaced the semi-porcelain ware of the United Kingdom and the United States in the Chicago market, but more French china was sold than before.

The direct imports of china and earthenware into Chicago increased 50,000*l.* in value over 1900, and about 30,000*l.* over 1899, but the imports from the United Kingdom are about the same as in 1900, and show a loss of over 25,000*l.* compared with 1899.

The total import of earthenware and china into the United States has increased about 130,000*l.* in value since 1900, and in that time the imports from the United Kingdom fell off 25,000*l.*, so that Chicago has proved a better market than other parts for this class of British goods. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,952.)

Openings for British Trade.

MEXICO.

Cement.

According to a report by the Belgian Legation at Mexico City, published in the "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) of 25th April, the Mexican Government is at present considerably interested in the question of irrigating the Mexican central plateau. In the course of a recent interview with the members of the Mexican Agricultural Society, General Cosio, the new Minister of Fomento, declared that the question of irrigation would receive the most careful attention during his term of office. He has in view several projects consisting mainly of the construction of large reservoirs, and, it is said, has resolved to call a meeting of experts to consider the best means of carrying out the different works. The projected construction of reservoirs should be of interest to cement manufacturers.

ARGENTINA.

All Appliances connected with Agriculture and Grazing.

H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres reports that there is an excellent opening for all appliances connected with or required in agriculture and grazing, machinery, tools, harness, seeds, bags, twine, fencing wire (plain and barbed), iron posts and droppers, gates, padlocks (insets), cattle brands, scales, windmill and other pumps, troughs, pipes, vet.'s instruments and books, sheath knives, tools, sheet iron and enamelled ware. Probably the Canadian and Australian types would suit better than the British.

Builders' Requisites, Brickmaking, and Stoneworking Machinery, &c.

In a lesser degree, and for the million or so people who live in towns, are wanted, besides the usual necessaries of life, iron pillars and beams for house building, baths and all kinds of up-to-date sanitary fittings, electric lifts, lights and bells, floor and wall tiles, water and oil paints and wall papers, brickmaking and stone working machinery.

Automobiles.

The Consul further reports that only 28 automobiles were imported into Buenos Ayres last year, but the appreciation of them is increasing, and a demand, no doubt, will arise, especially for electric cars in the town and other kinds outside.

Australian Harvesters.

For the first time, during the wheat harvest now ending, Australian harvesters were used. The machines were brought over by representatives of the makers, very energetically pushed by them, proved to be suited to the country, and to effect a great saving in

Openings for British Trade.

ARGENTINA—*continued.*

expense, and numerous orders for the machines were the result. These machines have come to stay.

Ostrich Farming.

Ostrich farming is an industry that could be developed. Several lots of African birds have been long enough in the country to prove that they do very well in it. The results obtained are as good as those given by sheep. There is no real market for the feathers at present, and it is probable that were the industry developed it would turn out profitable. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,961.)

Water Supply Works.

The "Boletin Oficial" of Argentina of 2nd April contains a copy of a Presidential Decree, approving an agreement made under date of 17th February last, between the Minister of Public Works and the executive power of the province of Jujuy, for the construction of works for the water supply in the city of Jujuy.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION.

FRANCE.

International Exhibition of Fishery, Hygiene, Life-saving, Ambulance and Sports at Paris.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the programme of an International Exhibition of Hygiene, Life-saving, Sports, Fishery, and Ambulance, which is to be held in Paris from September to November, 1904, at the Grand Palais des Champs-Elysées.

Full particulars may be obtained on application to the "Commissaire Général, Exposition Internationale de 1904, 3, Rue des Moulins, Paris.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Turkey.—In the report for the year 1902 presented at the annual general meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople, held on the 22nd April last, it is stated that, with the view of affording further facilities to British traders interested in Turkey, the Directors of the Chamber have appointed Mr. David Allatini, 23, St. Mary Axe, E.C., Honorary Secretary for the Chamber in London.

Chicago District—Canada.—In his recent report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 2,952), H.M. Consul at Chicago states that a great many houses in that city are making arrangements to extend their export business, and, with the increased manufacturing capacity, keen competition may be looked for both in the United Kingdom and colonies as well as in foreign countries.

Many more firms are likely to start branches in the United Kingdom and will, if thought practicable, manufacture there, while strong efforts are being made to control the trade of South Africa and other British colonies.

The business methods of Canada are similar to those of the United States, and a number of young Australians are in that country learning the business methods and studying the machinery used in the States for mining, irrigation, &c. Many of the conditions in the United States are like those of the colonies, and the same machinery and methods can be used there as can be seen in the Western States of America in operation in mines and on large farms and in the semi-arid districts. The labour conditions on farms are also similar, labour being highly paid and scarce, and a close study of all labour-saving methods on farms is also being made.

The careful study of the business and manufacturing methods of the United States and the adoption of those which may be suitable to the country where trade is sought is of great importance and should be encouraged. Many of the methods are unsuitable for the United Kingdom, but are indispensable to increasing or holding trade in those parts of the world where the American merchant is active, and a study in the United States for several months would, in most cases, be found of great advantage. A short stay of a day or two in a large city of the United States is worse than useless, as anyone unaccustomed to the ways at first only sees the bad points and learns nothing.

The Consul also states that several firms in the United Kingdom have started branches of their manufacturing business in the United States in order to compete with the American manufacturer under the same conditions, which, while reflecting credit on their enterprise and foresight, cannot be looked upon except as future opposition to British trade in export business.

Further on in his report the Consul writes that another development in business is the increasing investments of American money

in Canadian enterprises. These investments are in iron and coal mining, sugar refining, lumber, agricultural machinery of all kinds, machine shops, meat packing, piano making, furniture, cold storage, woollen mills, paper mills and agriculture of all kinds.

While these manufactures will all be of great value to the prosperity of Canada, they must be taken into consideration as competitors with trade from the United Kingdom in export business. They are, of course, started to supply the increasing demand in Canada for American goods and to avoid the duty payable on imports, but also with the view that if, at any time, a duty should be placed on imports into the United Kingdom, these factories would get the benefit of any rebate made to British possessions.

The Morea.—In his report on the trade of Morea and the Provinces of Acarnania and Ætolia for the year 1902, H.M. Consul at Patras writes:—

"It is satisfactory to be able to report that there is no falling-off in the value of goods of British origin and manufacture imported into this Consular district. Almost all British linen, cotton and woollen goods hold their own against all comers, even at comparatively higher prices, and this is due to the fact that consumers, with whom these goods have long been prime favourites, have found out by experience that the dearer article is the cheapest in the end.

"It has been often stated in these reports that British goods *ipso facto* command a decided preference in this country. The Greek consumer is imbued with the idea that there is no trickery about the British article, that it really is what it claims to be, and that in strength, durability and finish it is superior to foreign goods. But, of course, price is always a great consideration, and most articles of foreign manufacture are so much cheaper than the British that they are sometimes preferred in consequence.

"Many importers in this district have informed me that if British manufacturers could see their way to reduce the quality and price of many classes of goods, such as hardware, cutlery, china, crockery, glassware, leather goods, carpets, &c., they would obtain a large share of the trade which is now in foreign hands.

"The absence of British commercial travellers is also much felt by importers, who find it difficult to wade through voluminous price lists which are made out in English, and in British currency and measures, whereas an intelligent traveller on hearing of their requirements could immediately point out British goods of a class and price which could meet foreign competition.

"As a case in point I may mention that latterly British china, crockery and cutlery, having been obtainable at cheaper prices, has to some extent supplanted its foreign rivals." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,953.)

British Trade Abroad.

Syra.—In his recent report to the Foreign Office (*Annual Series*, 2,957), H.M. Consul at Syra writes :—

"The former prosperity of this island has had to give way by force of circumstances, duly recorded in my annual reports, to the steady development of the Piræus and other Greek ports; therefore any marked increase of trade can hardly be expected in this district. However, if British traders wish to retain their hold on these markets I am still of the opinion that it would certainly be advantageous if a smart commercial traveller, able to speak French, were to pay an occasional visit to this part of the world, not merely as a representative of a single firm and only one class of goods, but of various manufactures, such as oils, paints, dyes, chemicals, soaps, perfumery, cutlery, plated goods, hardware, rope, hats, yarns, cotton stuffs, hosiery, needles and haberdashery of all kinds, silks, cretonnes, machinery, earthenware and glass. . . . .

"With regard to the question of British weights, measures and money, my long experience urges me again to suggest the employment of the metric system, and French translations of trade circulars and catalogues for the Levant, stating, where possible, f.o.b. or c.i.f. An attempt might be made to render quotations as easy of comprehension as possible and to offer all reasonable facilities.

"I shall be pleased to welcome and afford all possible assistance to any representatives of British firms who care to make Syra a port of call in their European tours, and answer as fully as possible any letter of enquiry seeking information respecting trade and commerce.

"I should like to draw attention to difficulties through non-payments or bad debts and local lawsuits, alike expensive and of long duration, which could be avoided in most cases, if the Consul's advice had been asked for at the beginning. As a rule Consuls are requested to intervene when it is too late and good money has been thrown away after bad."

Havre.—H.M. Consul-General at Havre, in his recent report (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,960), writes :—

"In this Consular district British goods are always in demand, and it is the high protective tariff of France which makes an increase in business such a difficult matter. Havre is, however, so easily accessible from the United Kingdom that it might be worth while for firms desiring to open up trade with this part of France to send over a representative to consult with me on the spot. This course has been adopted on several occasions during the past year, with the result that orders have been placed by local firms with British houses. So far as Normandy is concerned, the practice of an occasional personal visit from representatives of British firms is, I think, capable of extension, and it might be made use of by firms who do not find it necessary to go to the expense of sending

British Trade Abroad.

regular commercial travellers abroad. But before this step is taken I request that notice may be taken of the following advice :—

"(1) The excellent reputation which British goods now enjoy on the Continent should, at all costs, be maintained. Any depreciation in the quality of British goods would have the immediate effect of reducing the demand for them.

"(2) The French Customs Tariff (except for wines and spirits) is based, to a very great extent, on the actual weight of the articles imported. This is, of course, what might be expected in the case of raw material, but it is not always understood that the same principle is frequently adopted in calculating the amount of duty payable on manufactured goods. Whenever, therefore, it is possible to do so, without detracting from the quality of the goods, an endeavour should be made to secure lightness in weight.

"(3) The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade should be consulted with a view to ascertaining what information has already been given in regard to the particular goods in question.

"(4) If there should appear to be an opening in the Havre Consular district, the British firm would do well to write to me for the names and addresses of some of the principal local firms in the particular trade in which the British firm may be interested. It is my practice to give this information to the best of my ability, but it must be understood that I assume no financial responsibility for the status of the firms mentioned by me.

"(5) Having received this information, a direct correspondence should be opened with the French firm. If possible, the French language should be used, and moneys, weights, and measures should be given in the decimal system used in France. This is more important for weights and measures than for prices, as the British monetary system is, as a rule, understood by business men in the north of France.

"(6) In introducing new business in manufactured goods it is generally necessary, before the amount of duty can be determined, that a sample should be sent to the purchaser or to a local agent for examination by the Custom-house authorities. The latter will naturally classify the articles under the headings which they consider to be most suitable from the point of view of the revenue, but a competent agent may sometimes succeed, by giving explanations, in having the goods classified in a manner more favourable to the purchaser."

THE NEW SUGAR LEGISLATION OF FRANCE, GERMANY, AND AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

With reference to the notice which appeared at pp. 537–42 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 20th March, 1902, containing a translation of the Brussels Sugar Convention, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, copies of the new Sugar Laws recently promulgated by the Governments of France, Germany, and Austria-Hungary, respectively. These Laws are to come into operation in each case simultaneously with the Convention, *i.e.*, on the 1st September next.

The principal provisions of the Laws are as follows:—

I.—France.

From the 1st September, 1903, the internal consumption duty on sugar is fixed at the following rates:—

		Frs.	Cts.
Raw and refined sugars ...	100 kilogs. of refined	25	00
Candies	100 kilogs. net weight	26	75

The manufacturing tax of 1 fr. per 100 kilogs. is to be abolished from the same date, and the tax on refining reduced from 4 to 2 frs. per 100 kilogs. Authorisation is also given for the exemption (under conditions to be determined by the Administration) of molasses destined for agricultural purposes and containing a saccharine richness of not more than 50 per cent.

The Customs surtaxes on foreign sugars of any origin are from the same date to be modified as follows:—

		Frs.	Cts.
Refined sugars and raw sugars testing not less than 98 per cent. ...	100 kilogs. net weight	6	00
Other sugars	,, ,,	5	50

The surtax on candies will be calculated in the proportion of 107 kilogs. of refined to 100 kilogs. of candy, net weight. With regard to molasses and chocolate, the existing provisions in respect of import duties are to remain in force.

The "*détaxes de distance*," or allowances for cost of transport granted to French Colonial sugars imported directly into France and to French sugars despatched under certain conditions to refineries at Atlantic or Mediterranean ports or in the interior, are for the future to be allowed according to the actual cost of transport instead of at the former fixed rates, which rates, however, are not to be exceeded

Sugars for use in the manufacture of alimentary products for exportation may be introduced into factories specially engaged in such manufacture and utilised free of duty under control.

The direct bounties on exported sugars are to be abolished, together with the system of assessing the amount of the consumption duty on the weight of the beetroot employed in the manufacture of the dutiable sugar which was found to operate as an indirect bounty by reason of excess yields and allowances for waste in manufacture.

The New Sugar Legislation of France, Germany, and Austria-Hungary.

The dispositions in force prior to the Law of 1884, relative to the assessment of the "*prise en charge*" based on the volume and density of the juice before defecation, are to be again put into operation. The rate of the "*prise en charge*" is fixed at 1,500 grammes per hectolitre and per degree of density above 100° (100° = density of water).

The dispositions actually in operation as to the taxation of raw sugars according to saccharimetric test, as well as those relating to the working of refineries, are maintained in force.

II.—Germany.

From the date when the Brussels Sugar Convention comes into force, the internal tax on sugar in Germany is to be fixed at 14 marks per 100 kilogs. The import duties on foreign sugars on which no premium has been paid in the country of production, are to be levied, from the same date, at the highest rate possible under the Brussels Sugar Convention (*i.e.*, at the rate of the internal duty plus a surtax equivalent to 6 frs. per 100 kilogs. for refined, and 5 frs. 50 centimes per 100 kilogs. for raw). The country of origin of the sugar is to be proved on entry.

The provisions of the existing Sugar Laws relative to the "additional tax" on sugar produced, and to export bounties are to be suspended. It is also provided that sugar which shall have been received into a bonded warehouse before the coming into force of this Law, shall, on coming into the open market or into a sugar factory after that date, repay the export bounty accorded thereon.

III.—Austria-Hungary.

From the date when the Brussels Convention comes into force, the import duty on sugar is to be levied at the highest rate permitted under the terms of the Convention (see above, under Germany). The origin of foreign sugar is to be certified on importation.

After 31st August, 1903, no further export bounty will be granted on Austro-Hungarian sugar, either in its natural form or when contained in sacchariferous articles.

No alteration is made by the present Law in the existing consumption duty on sugar which stands at 38 kr. per 100 kilogs.

The remaining sections of the Law provide for regulating the supply of sugar in the home market in the various districts within the Austro-Hungarian Customs Union, and fixes the sugar "contingent" for the ensuing season (1903–4) for Austria, Hungary, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, respectively. In this connection, a further Law has been promulgated containing regulations for the individual distribution of the sugar "contingent" in

The New Sugar Legislation of France, Germany, and Austria-Hungary.

Austria*, the provisions of which have been summarised in a memorandum by Mr. Bennett, H.M. Commercial Attaché at Vienna, received at the Board of Trade through the Foreign Office.

The system, known as "double contingentirung," consists in granting to each branch of the sugar industry certain definite claims to the prescribed contingent. To refiners is granted the right of placing the sugar contingent directly on the home market, while raw sugar producers alone possess a claim to the raw sugar value of the contingent, which is calculated on the basis of 100 kilogs. of raw being equal to 90 kilogs. of refined.

With regard to raw sugar factories, the maximum net production of each factory during one of the seasons of 1898–99, 1899–1900, 1900–01, is to be taken as the basis for the scale of participation in the raw sugar value of the contingent. At the same time, modifications of this general rule are to be made in favour of the smaller factories. Similarly, the share in the contingent assigned to each refinery is to be fixed by ascertaining the maximum amount of refined sugar placed on the home market by such refinery during one of the seasons of 1898–99, 1899–1900, 1900–01.

The certificates issued every month by the Government showing what portion of the contingent prescribed for any particular season may be set free for home consumption will be distributed among the various raw sugar producers, and must eventually be acquired by refiners before they can exercise their right of placing the refined article on the home market. Mr. Bennett accordingly points out that the system of "double contingentirung" consists in an arrangement under which, on the one hand, refiners receive the right of admitting the sugar contingent to excise, whereas, on the other, raw sugar producers can alone obtain the certificates enabling the refiners to exercise that right; and he adds that, though the Law contains no stipulations as to how refiners are to acquire the necessary certificates, a private arrangement has been come to between the refiners and raw sugar producers, by which the former can acquire the certificates in question on payment to the latter of 3 kr. 30 h. per 100 kilogs. of refined sugar placed on the home market.

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* A Bill containing corresponding provisions for Hungary is under the consideration of the Hungarian Legislature.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Importation of Arms, &c., into Ireland.

The Board of Customs have issued a General Order (No. 31/1903), transmitting, for the guidance of officers concerned, copy of an Order made by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in Council, dated the 16th March, 1903, regulating the importation of arms and ammunition into Ireland, under which Arklow is added to the list of places in Ireland at which arms and ammunition may be landed.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Regulations respecting Importation of Trees, Plants, &c.

A copy of the "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" for 3rd April last has been received, which contains a Proclamation (No. 96 of 1903) setting forth revised regulations to be observed by persons introducing into the Colony by sea, articles "likely to become injurious to the interests thereof."

The regulations, *inter alia*, provide that

1. The introduction into the Colony of trees, plants, and portions thereof—such as cuttings, roots, tubers, and bulbs—and of fruit of all kinds, grown elsewhere that in South Africa is prohibited, except by sea through the ports of the Colony or by post.

2. The importation of the following articles is absolutely prohibited:—

(*a*) Grape vines or any portion or fruit of any grape vine, with the exception of vines or portions thereof imported by the Government under such precautionary measures as may be deemed necessary.

(*b*) Coffee plants, or eucalypt plants, or any portion thereof, with the exception of seed.

(*c*) Stone fruit trees, or any portion thereof, including seeds that were grown or produced in any part of the United States or Canada in which either of the diseases known as peach yellows or peach rosette exists.

(*d*) From any, after 1st January, 1904, peach stocks and peach stones from any country whatsoever.

Provision is further made that from and after the 1st January, 1904, the importation of any fruit tree or portion thereof, with the exception of fruit, seed, seedling stocks for budding or grafting purposes, and blight proof stocks for apples, shall be allowed only by special permission from the Minister for Agriculture. No permit shall be granted for the introduction of more than 10 trees or 100

cuttings, of any one variety, nor shall permits be issued for more than an aggregate of 100 trees or 1,000 cuttings to any party during one year.

The regulations are not applicable to any consignment imported in *bond* for places beyond the borders of the Colony, nor to canned, dried or otherwise, preserved articles in which there is no longer any plant life.

TRANSVAAL.

Suspension of Duties on certain British South African Articles.

With reference to the notices published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 2nd and 16th April, 1903, relating to the suspension of the duties on British South African sugar under Ordinance 8 of 1903, the Board have now received a copy of a Proclamation (No. 9 of 1903) amending the provisions of Ordinances 8 and 12 of 1903 in such a way as to suspend, from 24th April, 1903, the duties on all articles (except spirits, together with flour or wheaten meal, including pollard, manufactured from other than South African wheat), the produce, growth, or manufacture of British South Africa, on importation into the Transvaal.

UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

Importation, &c., of Alcoholic Liquors.

The Board has received a copy of the "Uganda Liquor Ordinance, 1903," (No. 3 of 1903) which was "enacted by H.M. Commissioner for the Uganda Protectorate" on the 2nd March last.

The Ordinance in question provides for the importation, manufacture and sale of alcoholic and distilled liquors in the Protectorate, in terms identical with those published on pp. 593 and 609 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 24th December, 1902, for the British East Africa Protectorate.

A copy of the rules as laid down under the above Liquor Ordinance by H.M. Commissioner on the 10th March last, has also been received, which gives a schedule of the following licenses and fees payable on the importation or sale of alcoholic liquors within the Protectorate as follows :—

Licenses and Fees.	Rupees.
For importation of distilled or alcoholic liquors for purpose of sale	100
[The holder of a similar license in the East Africa Protectorate is exempted from the payment of this fee.]	
For the sale of alcoholic or distilled liquor, either wholesale or by retail between the hours of 6 a.m. and 12 p.m., to be consumed either on or off the premises	600

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

	Rupees.
For the sale of alcoholic or distilled liquors, either wholesale or retail, between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. (Sundays excepted) to be consumed either on or off the premises	450
For the sale of alcoholic or distilled liquors, either wholesale or retail, between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. to be consumed off the premises	250
For the sale of alcoholic or distilled liquors, wholesale only, between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.	200
An occasional license to the holder of a first or second class license for the sale of alcoholic or distilled liquors in exceptional cases for a limited period at any place other than the premises specified in the license of which he is the holder	5

[Distilled or alcoholic liquors forming part of the estate of a deceased person may be sold by the personal representative of the deceased without payment of any fee.]

All licenses, whenever taken out, will expire on the 31st December of each year.

MAURITIUS.

Prohibition of Import of Certain Articles from South Africa.

The Board of Trade have received, from the Collector of Customs at Port Louis, Mauritius, a copy of a Proclamation (No. 10 of 1903), dated 17th March, 1903, which provides that, in consequence of the existence of cattle plague, the importation from Natal, Basutoland and Cape Colony, into the Colony of Mauritius, of the following articles shall be prohibited:—

(*a*) Cattle dead or alive (as defined by Ordinance 39 of 1881), including horses, asses and mules as provided for in Regulation 79 of 1882 (subject to the provisions hereinafter contained).

(*b*) Fresh offal, hoofs, horns, bones, horse hair, hairs, raw silk and wool.

(*c*) Straw, hay or litter.

(*d*) Raw leather, untanned hides, fresh hides.

(*e*) Milk, fresh butter, cheese and generally all dairy produce.

(*f*) Rags and drills, without including rags packed under hydraulic pressure, conveyed in bales as merchandise.

(*g*) Old books and old newspapers.

(*h*) Manure and other fertilising products of animal or vegetable origin.

(*i*) Live plants and the soil in which they are planted.

(*j*) Old and second-hand clothes, gunny bags, new or old.

(*k*) Soil of every description, and ballast consisting of earth or mud sand.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

(*l*) Potatoes, peas, lentils, beans, maize, raw coffee, fresh vegetables and fruits.

All animals dead or alive, except cattle as above defined, and horses, mules and asses may be imported by permission of the Governor on a report of the Director of the Medical and Health Department, and subject, in the case of dogs, to the provisions of Ordinance Nos. 26 of 1845 and 12 of 1867.

The Proclamation No. 67 of 1901, a notice of which appeared in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 27th February, 1902, is cancelled.

RUSSIA.

Tariff Classification.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the Russian Customs Department have notified, by a Circular, dated 31st March/13th April, that products distinguishable from coal tar only by the absence of benzine and ammoniacal water are dutiable under Section 83, point 3, of the Tariff, at the rate of 30 copecks per poud (1*s.* 11¾*d.* per cwt.).

Customs Decision.

The Board are also in receipt, through the same channel, of information to the effect that it has been explained by a further Circular of the Customs Department that ships' coals are only exempted from the "import poud tax" when contained in the bunkers of a vessel. Coal stored in the hold is subjected to this duty, which is levied at the rate of ¼ copeck per poud (4*d.* per ton).

FRANCE.

Abolition of Import Duty on Citrate of Lime.

The French "Journal Officiel" for the 4th May contains a Presidential Decree, dated the 30th April, providing that citrate of lime shall be exempted from the payment of import duty.

SPAIN.

Tariff Classification of Paint Brushes.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" for the 24th April publishes a Royal Order, dated 4th April, providing that large and small paint brushes of bristle and imitations of bristle shall be dutiable as manufactures of the material of which the handle is composed. Small paint brushes of hair, feathers, textile fibre, and similar materials, shall pay duty as instruments of art, under No. 294 of the Spanish Customs Tariff, at the rate of 2 pes. per kilog. (4*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* per cwt.)

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SPAIN—*continued.*

Payment of Duties: Facilities.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 29th April contains a Royal Order granting facilities for opening special accounts current with the Bank of Spain, by importers of merchandise on which the duty is payable in gold, which will save them having to obtain that metal or its equivalent at a given date on unfavourable terms. Any merchant opening an account for the purpose indicated, with the Bank, can have the equivalent of his payments in currency entered to his credit in gold at once, at the rate which is being charged in the Custom-house for the fortnight then current.

Rate of Exchange for the Adjustment of Customs Duties payable in Gold.

Adverting to the notice on p. 160 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 23rd April, it is to be noted that the "Gaceta de Madrid" of 1st May contains a Royal Order declaring 36·16 per cent. to have been the average rate of exchange (premium of exchange on Paris) during the last fortnight of April, and that the corresponding reduction in the rate of Customs duty payable in gold during the first fortnight of the present month will be 27 per cent.

TURKEY.

Prohibition of the Export of Maize from the Sandjak of Durazzo.

The Board of Trade have received information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the exportation of maize from the Sandjak of Durazzo (Scutari) is prohibited, owing to local requirements, until the 1st/14th July next. Exception, however, will be made in favour of maize for the purchase of which contracts have already been entered into.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Revised Railway Rates on Through Goods.

The "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" of 3rd April publishes a summary of the alterations in the through goods rates for civil traffic from South African ports to the Central South African railways, which are to take effect from the 1st July next.

The "Gazette" containing these particulars, which are too long to quote *in extenso*, may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

RUSSIA.

Railway Statistics for 1902.

The "Gazette of Trade and Industry" published by the Russian Ministry of Finance, in its issue of 15th April (28th), states that it appears from statistics collected by the Ministry of Ways and Communications that the total receipts of Russian railways in 1902, amounted to 592,553,471 roubles or 18,586,899 roubles more than in 1901. As, however, the length of line opened to traffic had increased from 53,030 versts in 1901 to 54,075 versts in 1902, the average receipts per verst show a slight decrease, these having amounted in 1902 to 11,085 roubles, or 19 roubles (0·2 per cent.) less than in 1901. A considerable falling-off in receipts took place on the Ussurian, Trans-Baikal, Moscow-Windaw-Ribinsk, Moscow-Kazan and Sizran-Viaema lines, whilst increases took place on the Bielgorod-Sumi, Kharkov-Nicolaeiff, South-Western and Lodz lines. The total number of passengers in 1902 amounted to 109,019,682, whilst the amount of goods conveyed was 7,663,706 thousand pouds as compared with 8,303,075 thousand pouds in 1901. The net receipts on the State railways in Russia in Europe showed an increase of 1·2 per cent. in 1902, as compared with 1901, whilst those on private railways decreased by 3 per cent.; in Russia in Asia the receipts increased 12·7 per cent. owing principally to increased traffic on the Siberian Railway.

NOTE.—Rouble = 2*s.* 1⅓*d.*; verst = ·663 of a mile; poud = 36 lbs. avoirdupois.

NETHERLANDS.

Agreement for S.S. Service between Java, China, and Japan.

With reference to the notice published on p. 72 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 9th October, 1902, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Minister at the Hague, copy and translation of an agreement entered into between the Netherlands Government and

Shipping and Transport.

a firm of contractors for the maintenance of a steamship service under the Dutch flag between Java, China, and Japan.

Article II. of this agreement provides for the payment of the following subsidies by the State :—

300,000 fl. per annum for the first five years
250,000 „ „ „ second „
200,000 „ „ „ third „

The full text of the agreement, together with the translation thereof, may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

FRANCE.

Warehouse Lighters at Rouen.

The British Vice-Consul at Rouen reports that the new system of warehouse lighters (Bateaux-Magasins) marks an economy in the general transport of goods, which may be of interest to British merchants. These lighters receive cargoes from ships directly, and a special mooring place free of charge is assigned to them, till the destination of their cargo is settled, when they proceed up or down the river, or branch off into the canal waterways. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,960.)

TURKEY.

Passage of the Dardanelles by British Mail Steamers.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office, from H.M. Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that instructions have been given by the Turkish Government to the Prefecture of the port to enable mail steamers belonging to British steam navigation companies to pass the Dardanelles without stopping at Nagara to land their firmans.

H.M. Ambassador adds that the Khedivial Line is at present the only British steam navigation company which runs mail steamers to Constantinople, but the permission appears to apply to all British mail steamers.

GREECE.

Diversion of Carrying Trade to Foreign Vessels.

H.M. Consul at Patras reports that all goods for the East coast of Great Britain and for transhipment by sailing vessel to San Francisco and California generally, are shipped *viâ* Rotterdam and Antwerp, where through rates and transhipment expenses are much below those of all British ports; a good deal of tonnage is thus diverted to foreign vessels which are more constantly than British bottoms on the berth for Continental ports. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,953.)

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

Royalty on Coal in Yukon.

A copy of the "Canada Gazette" for 11th April, 1903, has been received, which contains an Order-in-Council fixing, for a period of ten years from 7th March, 1903, a royalty of 10 cents per ton of 2,000 lbs. on the gross output of coal in the Yukon territory.

GERMANY.

Rolled Iron Producers' Combination Dissolved.

Referring to the article published on pp. 541–3 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 18th December, 1902, respecting the German Cartel system, H.M. Consul-General at Berlin, in his recent report to the Foreign Office, states that the combination of producers of rolled iron was dissolved in the last quarter of the year 1902. The wholesale trade of Berlin showed the effects of this condition of the market, and the trade in bar iron and iron plate was unsatisfactory; on the other hand that of building iron, in consequence of the comparative prosperity of the building trade, did business with profit.

Combination of Electrical Firms.

In another part of his report the Consul-General states that in the summer of last year a combination of electrical firms was discussed for the purpose of watching the interests of the trade, and at the end of the year and the beginning of this, combinations of the largest German firms actually took place; first between the Actien Electricitäts Gesellschaft and the Union, then between Siemens and the Nuremberg Schuckert Works, which latter firm had suffered very severely from the disastrous crisis of the previous years. A complete amalgamation is not contemplated, but certain branches are combined in order to cheapen the cost of production. The export prices of electrical manufactures were not remunerative. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,959.)

FRANCE.

German Coal at Havre.

In his recent report, H.M. Consul-General at Havre states that the amount of German coal imported into that port in 1902 was insignificant in comparison with the imports from the United Kingdom. It continues, however, to arrive in increased quantities, and important contracts have been made for its supply in 1903 to Havre, Caen, Dieppe and Rouen, as well as to places beyond the limits of the Havre Consular district.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

The German coal which is now being imported into Havre contains about 25 per cent. of large pieces. Buyers will only purchase on condition that the price is considerably under that of British coal. German coal has been sold there at a quotation of 16 fr. 75 c. (13*s.* 5*d.*) c.i.f. and duty, a price which is about the same as that of Cardiff small coal, and considerably less than that of Cardiff "through and through." It is generally agreed that German coal lacks the quality to admit of its competing successfully with the better kinds of Cardiff steam coal, nor is it likely to affect the importation of the best Newcastle steam coal. The freight from Rotterdam to Havre is practically the same as the freight to Havre from either Cardiff or Newcastle. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,960.)

FRANCE—ALGERIA.

Discovery of Alabaster.

The "Dépêche Coloniale" of the 28th March states that a French trader, during a recent journey in Algeria, discovered in several regions of that colony a calcareous stone of the same density as the alabaster of Valterra (Tuscany). This stone, of a fine grain and of great transparency, will, it is said, take a beautiful polish, and, when treated with manufacturing processes, would rival the most beautiful alabasters of Italy and of Scotland. The regions of Bône, Philippeville, Bougie and Tlemcen are said to be rich in minerals, but unfortunately they are not worked.

The alabaster discovered at Bône (Fort Gênois) belongs to the calcareous group, is perfectly translucid, and is easily worked. The manufacturers to whom specimens of the Algerian alabaster have been submitted are unanimous in their appreciation of the beauty of this stone.

GREECE.

Purchase of Volcanic Cement Mines by a British Syndicate.

The British Consular Agent at Santorin reports that a British syndicate have just made arrangements for the purchase of several large mines of volcanic cement, intended for exportation abroad in constructing harbour works at various ports. Details of this enterprise will be issued as soon as possible after the working of the mines has commenced. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,957.)

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 2nd May were as follow:—

Wheat	...	...	...	...	26*s.* 10*d.*
Barley	...	...	...	...	22*s.* 1*d.*
Oats	...	...	...	...	18*s.* 0*d.*

For further particulars see p. 278.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 279, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 2nd May, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1902.

GERMANY.

Exhibition for Promoting the Hygienic Supply of Milk.

In a recent despatch to the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg forwarded particulars of an Exhibition for the Promotion of the Hygienic Supply of Milk, which was opened in that city on the 2nd May, and is to remain open till the 10th idem. The Consul-General is of opinion that, although the Exhibition is merely a local undertaking, a good deal of interest attaches to it from an agricultural, economical, medical and scientific, and also general point of view.

A copy of the programme of the Exhibition may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

FRANCE.

Damage to Vines and Plum Trees by the Recent Frosts.

H.M. Consul at Bordeaux, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, reports that the recent frosts in the Gironde and adjoining Departments have done great harm to the vines and fruit trees.

The weather during March and the early part of April had been most favourable to vegetation, and the vines and plum trees were giving every promise of abundant crops when the severe frosts came, which in many districts almost destroyed all prospects of a vintage and a plum harvest. It is stated by experts that the damage caused may be

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calculated at one-half the vintage and three-quarters of the plum crop. The result has been that stocks of wines and plums are being withheld from sale except at considerably enhanced prices. The damage done extends, roughly speaking, from the Bay of Biscay to the Rhone.

It may be mentioned that many vineyard owners were indefatigable during the frosts in producing artificial smoke clouds, by burning preparations of tar and resin, which, covering the vines during the night, have been instrumental in saving many acres of vines thus treated from the fate of those where no such precautions were taken.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Shipment of Texan Cattle to South Africa.

A despatch dated 16th April has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Galveston, reporting that the British steamer "Atlantian" sailed from that port for Delagoa Bay on the 10th April with 2,550 head of two-year-old Texan cattle for use in the Transvaal. The Consul adds that should this consignment prove successful, numerous shipments of Texan cattle from Galveston to South Africa are said to be likely to follow.

Irrigation Prospects under the New Law.

In the report of H.M. Consul at Chicago recently issued, it is estimated that there are between 60,000,000 and 100,000,000 acres of land in the Western States of America that can be irrigated. Much of this land is really semi-arid and will grow crops naturally in favourable years, but these only come about once in four.

The United States Government have passed a Law that the money received for the sale of these Government lands shall be used for making dams and reservoirs, and for storing and distributing the waste water through the semi-arid district.

Up to the present time the work of supplying water for irrigation has been left to companies, and in many cases it has not had beneficial results, but there are great expectations of the satisfactory working of the new Law. One of the great results will be the number of small farms that will be started on this desert land.

Colorado, Western Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, and Wyoming are the states in the Consular district of Chicago, in which irrigation will play a great part in the future, and where windmills, engines, &c., have been used for some time with very good results. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,952.)

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ARGENTINA.

Sugar Output.

H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres reports that the sugar output of Argentina has gone back nearly 8,000 tons, some 20 per cent. This business is said to be suffering from over-production, and a provincial Law has been passed to restrict the production.

The average sugar output for the last five years has been 124,000 tons. The export has been 30,000 tons. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 2,961.)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Tax on Sugar produced in Dominica.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Port-au-Prince reporting that the "Official Gazette" of the Dominican Republic of 14th March last contained a Decree imposing a tax of 10 cents gold per 100 pounds on all sugar produced in the Republic.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 30th April was 66,257 and the number imported during the 18 weeks ended the 30th April was 1,855,243. As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 30th April, 9,389 bales, and for the 18 weeks, 175,199.

For further details see p. 278.

A return showing the number of bales of cotton imported and exported, forwarded from ports to Inland towns, and returned to ports during the month and four months ended 30th April last, will be found on p. 277.

Bankruptcy Statistics.

The total number of receiving orders gazetted in England and Wales during the month of April, last was 269, as compared with 321 during April, 1902

For detailed particulars see pp. 280-1.

Miscellaneous.

ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

Stamps and Licenses Ordinance, 1903.

The "Government Gazette" of the Orange River Colony, dated 3rd April, contains the text of an Ordinance (No. 10 of 1903) entitled "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the payment of Stamp Duty and Licenses," which is to take effect from and after the 1st July next.

Commercial Travellers' Licenses.

From a schedule attached to this Ordinance it appears that the amount to be paid for a license as agent of a foreign firm or firms for every three months is 5*l*, and as agent for a foreign firm or firms taking orders for liquors 20*l* for the same period.

The "Gazette" containing the full text of the Ordinance, including schedules of the stamp dues and license fees, may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Trade in 1902.

With reference to the tables on pp. 277–8 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th February last, showing the value of the trade of the Straits Settlements during the third quarter of 1902, the following tables, based on the official returns of imports and exports recently issued at Singapore, give the figures for the fourth quarter of 1902 and for the whole year :—

Imports (Exclusive of Bullion and Specie).

—	Fourth Quarter.		Year.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals, food and drink and narcotics ...	2,723,000	2,788,000	11,165,000	11,001,000
Raw materials—				
Textile	68,000	38,000	218,000	130,000
Metal	1,436,000	1,598,000	5,597,000	5,896,000
Other	1,440,000	1,257,000	5,176,000	4,886,000
Manufactured articles—				
Textile	1,015,000	979,000	3,883,000	3,503,000
Metal	239,000	196,000	892,000	706,000
Other	446,000	395,000	1,684,000	1,520,000
Total	7,367,000	7,251,000	28,615,000	27,642,000

Miscellaneous.

Exports (exclusive of Bullion and Specie).

	Fourth Quarter.		Year.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals, food and drink, and narcotics ...	2,615,000	2,531,000	10,476,000	10,254,000
Raw materials—				
Textile	58,000	33,000	152,000	113,000
Metal	1,418,000	1,478,000	5,946,000	6,354,000
Other	1,363,000	1,156,000	4,964,000	4,876,000
Manufactured articles—				
Textile	568,000	476,000	2,267,000	1,894,000
Metal	86,000	73,000	372,000	285,000
Other	229,000	212,000	915,000	823,000
Total ... £	6,337,000	5,959,000	25,092,000	24,599,000

NOTE.—The dollar value of the whole trade has been converted into sterling at the average (demand) rates for drafts on London for the respective quarters—1*s.* 10½*d.* for 1901, and 1*s.* 7½*d.* for 1902—but any comparison in sterling is not strictly applicable to goods which have their origin in silver currency countries.

NORWAY.

Withdrawal of Certain Bank Notes from Circulation.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, copy of a circular issued by the Bank of Norway, transmitted by H.M. Consul-General at Christiania, relative to the withdrawal from circulation of certain bank notes.

These comprise 500 kroner notes of date 1877 to 1896; 100 kroner notes of date 1877 to 1898; 50 kroner notes of date 1877 to 1899; 10 kroner notes of date 1877 to 1899; and 5 kroner notes of date 1877 to 1899, a full description of which, together with a copy and the translation of the notice, may be seen by persons interested on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 50, Parliament Street, S.W., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA.

Operation of Decree regulating Coinage in Angola.

With reference to the notice published on pp. 278-9 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 5th February last respecting the proposed Law to regulate the coinage in Angola, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at St. Paul de Loanda, reporting that the Decree of 15th September, 1896, declaring that only Portuguese silver coins had legal currency in Angola, had practically no effect, as there was little or no foreign silver money in the place.

Miscellaneous.

At the present time the amount of Portuguese silver money in Angola is very limited, but of paper currency and bronze coins there is an abundance, the greater part of the latter being used in trading with the native and in paying the coloured operatives.

The old cumbersome surcharged copper coinage has been gradually withdrawn from circulation, and bronze coins of 5, 10, and 20 reis substituted therefor. This bronze coinage at the present time suffers a discount of 3 per cent. when exchanging it for notes of the bank.

The Loanda Water Company, which was inaugurated in 1889, was empowered by the Government to raise its capital of 111,111*l.* by an emission of bronze coinage of 5, 10, and 20 reis, to be circulated in Angola only.

As this bronze coinage is largely used in trading with the natives, the merchants jumped at the idea of putting it into circulation as quickly as possible, and large remittances commenced to flow in from Lisbon; but later on, when many found themselves overstocked with this money and wanted to change it at the Bank for notes, they found that the Bank would not receive it except at a discount of 3 per cent.

A meeting of merchants was convened to protest against the Bank's action, and at the same time to request the Government to stop further remittances. Delegates were nominated to present a petition to the then Governor-General, and in the end a considerable sum of this bronze specie was retained in Lisbon, where it was ultimately put into circulation.

REPORTS OF BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Halifax.—At the monthly meeting of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, held on the 29th April, a letter was read from the Great Northern Railway with regard to certain improvements in the train service to London suggested by the Chamber.

It was agreed to form a sub-committee to consider the question of participating in the St. Louis Exhibition.

Other matters discussed were the new bills relating to trade unions and the higher commercial education scheme at the Yorkshire College.

Walsall.—At the usual monthly meeting of the Walsall Chamber of Commerce, a letter was read from the London Chamber expressing the hope that a local committee would be formed in connection with a proposed Central Committee to deal with the question of the German Tariffs. It was resolved to refer the matter to the Parliamentary Bills Committee.

Other matters considered were:—Proposed New Telegraphic Code, Employers' Liability, and various matters of local interest connected with Railway Rates, &c.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.—April, 1903.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported**, **Forwarded** from **Ports** to **Inland Towns**, and **Returned** to **Ports** during the Month and Four Months ended 30th April, 1903, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1902.

	Month of April.		Four Months ended 30th April, 1903.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Imports.				
American	266,466	187,991	1,310,652	1,342,278
Brazilian	24,488	37,365	90,308	113,491
East Indian	17,771	4,063	37,424	10,846
Egyptian	34,149	42,503	198,350	212,688
Miscellaneous	7,721	2,562	16,876	17,793
Total	350,595	274,484	1,653,610	1,697,096
Exports.				
American	22,169	17,108	75,622	74,512
Brazilian	5,845	120	16,468	840
East Indian	3,600	664	11,111	4,825
Egyptian	9,408	8,672	55,823	51,528
Miscellaneous	1,231	814	3,618	1,961
Total	42,253	27,378	162,642	133,666
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.				
American	229,581	226,684	1,065,875	972,400
Brazilian	15,164	17,905	49,327	46,666
East Indian	5,510	1,386	16,345	4,669
Egyptian	19,387	37,185	121,850	133,326
Miscellaneous	5,191	6,767	21,223	28,799
Total	274,833	289,927	1,274,620	1,185,860
Forwarded from Inland Towns to Ports.				
American	608	776	1,798	1,262
Brazilian	—	—	—	—
East Indian	—	—	—	—
Egyptian	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	45	1	52	7
Total	653	777	1,850	1,269

Cotton Returns—*continued.*

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the Week and 18 Weeks ended 30th April, 1903.

——	Week ended 30th April, 1903.	18 Weeks ended 30th April, 1903.	Week ended 30th April, 1903.	18 weeks ended 30th April, 1903.
	Imports. (Bales.)		Exports. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	52,432	1,489,401	4,147	84,147
Brazilian	—	90,359	515	16,668
East Indian	3,278	37,951	930	12,300
Egyptian	9,479	219,577	3,609	58,449
Miscellaneous	1,068	17,955	188	3,635
Total	66,257	1,855,243	9,389	175,199

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn**, per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 2nd May, 1903, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

——	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Week ended 2nd May, 1903	26	10	22	1	18	0
Corresponding week in—						
1896	25	7	21	0	14	4
1897	28	4	21	5	16	11
1898	42	4	27	8	20	4
1899	25	3	24	5	17	6
1900	25	11	25	3	18	0
1901	26	9	26	4	19	1
1902	29	9	27	5	21	10

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 2nd May, 1903, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 2nd May, 1903.	Corresponding week in 1902.
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	12,887	7,295
Sheep and lambs	„	14,946	7,178
Swine	„	—	—
Horses	„	734	794
Fresh meat :—			
Beef...	Cwts.	83 869	75.850
Mutton	„	108,696	80,833
Pork	„	9,361	8,434
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	107,558	94,049
Beef	„	6,862	5,590
Hams	„	18,924	34,050
Pork	„	4,837	4,041
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	„	15,418	14,687
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	„	18,546	14,180
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	97,676	73,324
Margarine	„	15,514	18,250
Cheese	„	25,502	12,965
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	„	48	6
„ cream	„	88	65
„ condensed	„	15,777	15,443
„ preserved, other kinds	„	78	49
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	425,537	340,962
Poultry and game	Value £	9,193	8,427
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	14,732	4,463
Lard	„	48,732	40,234
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	939,916	1,048,820
Wheat-meal and flour	„	355,157	241,285
Barley	„	210,640	269,036
Oats	„	188,288	335,191
Peas	„	27,824	24,127
Beans	„	17,021	47,432
Maize or Indian corn	„	721,240	841,892
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	28,237	24,484
Apricots and peaches	„	—	—
Bananas	Bunches.	94,128	54,214
Cherries	Cwts.	4	88
Currants	„	—	—
Gooseberries	„	117	5
Grapes	„	323	426
Lemons	„	2,982	11,123
Oranges	„	174,677	282,075
Pears	„	314	81
Plums	„	—	—
Strawberries	„	—	2
Unenumerated	„	273	1,684
Hay	Tons.	4,113	8,671
Straw	„	833	2,960
Hops	Cwts.	704	548
Locust beans...	„	26,720	8,469
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	157,416	184,562
Potatoes	Cwts.	174,289	55,138
Tomatoes	„	18,896	9,931
Unenumerated	Value £	11,379	17,889
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	254	1,468
Preserved by canning	„	2,806	3,148

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales.

Number of Receiving Orders Gazetted in the under-mentioned Periods and in the under-mentioned Principal Trades and Occupations.

	April.		Four Months ended 30th April.	
	1903.	*1902.*	1903.	*1902.*
Total gazetted	No. 269	*No. 321*	No. 1,392	*No. 1,389*
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations:—				
Builders	25	*17*	112	*91*
Grocers, &c.	15	*27*	96	*91*
Publicans and hotel keepers, &c....	20	*21*	94	*97*
Farmers	13	*11*	55	*72*
Bakers	7	*8*	45	*39*
Boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers ..	14	*10*	41	*33*
Decorators, painters, plumbers, &c.	6	*10*	37	*39*
Drapers, haberdashers, &c.	6	*9*	36	*30*
Butchers	5	11	35	*45*
Greengrocers, fruiterers, &c.	2	*5*	32	*34*
Tailors, &c.	4	*3*	28	*21*
Coal and coke merchants and dealers	1	*6*	24	*15*
Fishmongers, poulterers, &c.	2	*4*	20	*21*
Confectioners	4	*2*	20	*12*
Solicitors	3	*2*	18	*10*
Auctioneers	3	*4*	18	*14*
Agents, commission and general	7	*4*	18	*16*
Carpenters and joiners	4	*1*	17	*11*
Carriers, carmen, lightermen and hauliers ...	8	*5*	17	*19*
Clothiers, outfitters, &c.	4	*2*	16	*9*
Tobacconists, &c.	—	*6*	15	*14*
Furniture dealers and makers	1	—	14	*13*
Cab, omnibus and fly proprietors	1	*1*	14	*5*
Clerks, commercial and general	2	*5*	12	*14*
Jewellers, watchmakers, importers, silversmiths, &c.	3	*2*	12	*20*
Gardeners, florists, &c.	3	*1*	12	*6*
Corn, flour, seed, hay, and straw merchants and dealers	—	—	11	*13*
Provision merchants, &c.	2	*4*	11	*10*

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales—*continued.*

	April.		Four Months ended 30th April.	
	1903.	*1902.*	1903.	*1902.*
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations—*continued:*	No.	*No.*	No.	*No.*
Merchants, general	2	—	11	*10*
Lodging-house keepers	2	*2*	11	*7*
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	1	*2*	10	*11*
Contractors	5	*1*	10	*5*
Hairdressers	1	—	9	*6*
Officers in Army	3	*1*	9	*3*
Blacksmiths, farriers, &c.	—	*2*	8	*8*
Printers, booksellers, and publishers	1	*2*	8	*12*
Restaurant, coffee and eating-house keepers ...	1	—	8	*3*
Wheelwrights	3	*2*	8	*5*
Travellers, commercial	4	*2*	8	*10*
Saddlers and harness makers	—	*1*	7	*7*
Carriage, &c., builders	—	*4*	7	*13*
Milliners, dressmakers, &c.	—	*1*	7	*4*
Directors and promoters of public companies ...	1	*6*	7	*11*
General dealers	2	*4*	7	*19*
China, glass, and earthenware, &c., dealers ...	—	*4*	6	*6*
Chemists, druggists and chemical manufacturers	—	*2*	5	*7*
Ironmongers	1	*3*	5	*10*
Timber merchants and wood dealers	1	*2*	5	*6*
Bicycle, &c., manufacturers and dealers ..	—	*1*	4	*6*
Schoolmasters and schoolmistresses	—	*3*	4	*9*
Millers	1	*1*	4	*7*
Woollen merchants and manufacturers	1	—	4	*4*
Stationers	2	3	4	*6*
Doctors of medicine, physicians, &c.	2	—	4	*7*
Brokers, stock and share	2	*1*	4	*5*
Dairymen, cowkeepers, &c.	—	*4*	3	*12*
Architects and surveyors	1	*3*	3	*9*
Wine and spirit merchants, &c.	1	*1*	3	*3*
Hosiers, glovers, &c.	—	—	2	*5*
Curriers, tanners, and leather merchants ...	—	*2*	2	*3*
Engineers and founders, &c.	1	*1*	2	*11*
Cattle and pig dealers	1	*2*	2	*7*
Stone, marble and monumental masons, &c. ...	1	—	2	*1*
Fishing smack owners, and masters	1	—	1	*1*
Cotton spinners and manufacturers	—	—	—	—

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of March, 1903, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a small cost (in the present instance 1*s.*) per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1901, in two Volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 6*s.* 7*d.* for the first, and 4*s.* 10*d.* for the second Volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1897-1901, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country), and, in the second volume, details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transhipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE LABOUR GAZETTE.

This Gazette is published by the Board of Trade about the 15th of each month. The following are among the more important articles that appeared in the number issued on the 15th April:—State of the Labour Market in March; Wages Agreement in the South Wales Coal Trade; Labour Legislation in Holland; Report of the American Coal Strike Commission; New German Merchant Shipping Acts; Price of Bread, Wheat, and Flour; Prices of Coal and Iron; New Industrial Organisations Registered in 1902; Report of Canadian Department of Labour, &c., &c.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the **Annual Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

No. 2,960. Havre and District, 1902.

Prospects for British trade.

Directions in which Germans are competing, notably in coal and patent fuel, and in the carrying trade generally.

Disappearance of competition of American coal.

Non-liability clauses in bills of lading.

Comparative tables of principal articles of import and export at all the ports of the Consular district of Havre, with observations as

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to the character of trade and principal countries participating.

Tables showing chief articles of British and Colonial manufacture imported.

Comparative shipping returns of each port, by countries.

This publication also contains reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Rouen, Tréport and Eu.

No. 2,961. Buenos Ayres, 1902.

Increase of 1·4 per cent. in imports supplied by United Kingdom, making 36 per cent. of total. United States and all European countries show decreases.

Examination of import and export trade, showing articles in which increases or decreases have taken place, and also countries of origin and destination of principal classes of goods.

Hints to traders and capitalists.

Statistical tables of import and export trade, indicating the share of the various countries participating.

This publication also contains reports by the British Vice-Consuls at La Plata, San Nicolas, and Bahia Blanca, together with a note by the British Consular Agent at Port Gallegos, South Patagonia.

No. 2,962. Palestine, 1902.

Trade fairly good, despite cholera epidemic.

Importation of oil engines.

Comparative tables of the principal articles of import and export at Jaffa during 1901–1902.

This publication, in addition to the main report from Jerusalem, contains also a report by the British Consular Agent at Jaffa.

No. 2,963. Nicaragua, 1902.

Considerable decline in import trade. Classes of goods in which the United States and Germany are gaining on Great Britain.

Better export trade. Good results of cotton planting.

Returns of principal imports and exports at the ports of Corinto, Greytown, and San Juan del Sur during the years 1898, 1900, and 1902.

No. 2,964. Bilbao, 1902.

Slight recovery from depression.

Position of the iron ore industry and of the metallurgical industry and trades.

Prospects of increased trade in machinery, if longer credit be given.

Other openings for British trade.

Dock and railway extension.

Shipping returns.

Comparative tables of principal imports and exports at Bilbao, showing countries of origin and destination.

This publication also contains reports by the British Vice-Consuls at Santander, San Sebastian, and Castro Urdiales.

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No. 2,965. Amsterdam, 1902.

Shipping trade unsatisfactory, and imports of Colonial produce disappointing.

Progress of public works.

Ymuiden shipping returns.

Statistics of general imports and exports at Netherland ports.

No. 2,966. French Indo-China, 1902.

Rice and paddy trade in Annam, Tonkin, and Cochin China, with tables of export.

Exports of other produce.

Shipping returns.

Rates of exchange.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

South Africa. Papers relating to the Finances of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. [*Cd.* 1,552.] *Price* 1*s.* 6*d.*

This return deals with the questions of the revenue and expenditure in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony and with the proposed railway extensions in those Colonies. It contains the minutes of the Railway Extension Conference which met at Johannesburg in March last to discuss the building of new lines. A map of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, showing the lines proposed as a result of Conference, is published with the report.

South Africa. Further papers relating to the Progress of Administration in the Transvaal. [*Cd.* 1,553.] *Price* 5*d.*

This return contains reports on the burgher camps and burgher land settlements, with statistics relating to repatriation in the Transvaal. It also comprises reports on the Transvaal Law and Public Works Departments, the former report containing a list of Ordinances promulgated in 1902 and of draft Ordinances in preparation or under consideration, and the latter a statement of the building works, road and bridge works, water supply works, &c, either being carried out or proposed to be carried out in the Transvaal.

Committee on British Forestry. Minutes of Evidence. [*Cd.* 1,565.] *Price* 2*s.* 5*d.*

This is a return containing the minutes of evidence taken before the Departmental Committee appointed to enquire into and report upon British Forestry, together with appendices and index. The appendices comprise, *inter alia*, some interesting papers on the world's timber supply, the timber production, imports and exports of various countries, &c.

Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the year ending 31*st December*, 1902. [*Cd.* 1,560.] *Price* 1*s.* 6*d.*

According to this return 1,096 persons were killed and 6,661 injured on railways in the United Kingdom in the course of

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public traffic in 1902, the corresponding figures for 1901 being 1,171 and 6,740 respectively. In addition, 75 persons were killed in 1902 and 11,153 injured by accidents which occurred upon railway premises but in which the movement of railway vehicles was not concerned, so that the total number of personal accidents reported to the Board of Trade in 1902 by the railway companies of the United Kingdom amounts to 1,171 persons killed and 17,814 injured. The present return contains reports on enquiries held by officers of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade into certain accidents which occurred during the quarter, October to December, 1902.

Twenty-first Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland. Part I. General Report. [*Cd.* 1,545.] *Price* 1*s.* 5*d.*

This report deals with the fisheries of Scotland during last year. It notes that the result of the fishing industry in Scotland in 1902 exceeded both in quantity and value that of any year in the recorded history of the industry, the total amount of the catch having been 6,866,000 cwts., valued at 2,502,000*l.*

American Mail Service. Return. 94. *Price* 1½*d.*

This return shows the amount of time occupied in the transit of mails in 1902 by steamship between Queenstown and New York, Southampton and New York, and New York and Plymouth, the time taken in each voyage being separately noted.

Sea Fisheries of the United Kingdom, 1902. *Statistical Tables and Memorandum.* 112. *Price* 5½*d.*

This return, which is issued annually by the Board of Trade, contains statistics showing the quantity and value of fish of various kinds landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom in 1902, the number of fishing boats and men employed, the imports, exports, and re-exports of fish and the quantity of fish carried by railway from each of the principal ports of the United Kingdom; a memorandum reviewing the statistics is prefixed to the return. Figures are also given for the latest year available as to the fishing industries of Norway, Denmark, France, Portugal, and Canada. According to the return the total value of fish, including shell fish, landed in the different divisions of the United Kingdom in 1902 was :—

Landed in England and Wales	£6,816,000
Scotland...	2,581,000
Ireland	310,000
	£9,707,000

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LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—	
	Denmark:	
2934	Denmark (Supplementary) 1901	1*d.*
	France:	
2949	Brest 1902	1½*d.*
2955	Cherbourg ... ... „	1½*d.*
2941	French Guinea ...1901	½*d.*
2939	Havre (Agriculture) ...1902	½*d.*
2960	Havre ... ... „	3*d.*
2966	Indo-China ... ... „	½*d.*
	Germany:	
2956	Chemnitz 1902	1*d.*
2945	Estimates of the German Empire 1903	1*d.*
2959	Germany 1902	1½*d.*
	Greece:	
2957	Cyclades 1902	1*d.*
2953	Morea, and Provinces of Acarnania and Ætolia 1902	1*d.*
2947	Thessaly ... ... „	1½*d.*
	Italy:	
2930	Finances of Italy ...1902	1½*d.*
2933	Italy 1901	3*d.*
2936	Naples 1902	1½*d.*
2935	Venice 1901–02	1½*d.*
	Netherlands:	
2965	Amsterdam 1902	1*d.*
	Portugal:	
2954	Portugal 1902	½*d.*
	Russia:	
2943	Odessa (Supplementary) 1901	1½*d.*
	Servia:	
2958	Servia 1902	1*d.*
	Spain:	
2924	Bilbao 1901	2½*d.*
2964	Bilbao 1902	2*d.*
	Turkey:	
2950	Constantinople ...1902	2*d.*
2932	Crete 1901	1*d.*
2926	Eastern Coast of the Red Sea ... 1899–1901	2*d.*
2962	Palestine 1902	1*d.*
	AFRICA—	
2931	Alexandria ...1901 and part of 1902	1*d.*
2948	Somaliland Protectorate 1901–02	2½*d.*
588	*Exotic Plants of Economic Interest in the Botanic Gardens at Entebbe, Uganda ... ...*	½*d.*
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	United States of America:	
2952	Chicago... 1902	4*d.*
2942	New Orleans ... ... „	2½*d.*
2944	States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky 1902	1½*d.*
587	*Coal Industry of the United States in 1901 ... ...*	2*d.*
	Mexico:	
2925	Mexico 1901	2½*d.*
2951	Mexico City 1902	2½*d.*
	AMERICA, CENTRAL—	
2963	Nicaragua 1902	½*d.*
	AMERICA, SOUTH—	
	Argentina:	
2940	Argentine finances 1901–02	1½*d.*
2961	Buenos Ayres 1902	1½*d.*
	Brazil:	
2938	Brazil ... First half of 1902	½*d.*
2928	Rio de Janeiro ...1901	1½*d.*
	Chile:	
2946	Coquimbo 1901	½*d.*
	WEST INDIES—	
2927	Hayti 1901	1*d*
	ASIA—	
	Siam:	
2929	Chiengmai 1901	1*d.*
	PACIFIC ISLANDS—	
2937	Samoa 1902	1*d.*

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Treaty Series.

The following numbers of the Treaty Series issued since 1st January, 1903, may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources :—

No.	———	Price.
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
1	Convention between the United Kingdom and Belgium regulating telephonic communication between the two countries	½*d.*
	France:	
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France for the exchange of insured and uninsured parcels between France and Gibraltar	1*d.*
	AMERICA, NORTH—	
	United States of America:	
4	Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the adjustment of the Boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the Territory of Alaska	½*d.*
	ASIA—	
	Corea:	
3	Accession of Corea to the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field	½*d.*

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1903, may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
377	Northern Nigeria	2½*d.*
378	British Guiana	2½*d.*
379	Mauritius	3½*d.*
380	Basutoland	3*d.*
381	Southern Nigeria	2½*d.*
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1½*d.*
—	Cyprus	3*d.*

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

OF THE

BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade was established in 1899, in consequence of a report by a Departmental Committee, with a view to meet the constantly increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by Government action. It is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference. In addition, it is the duty of the Branch, as far as circumstances permit, to afford information in reply to all enquiries on commercial matters which may be addressed to it, whether written or verbal.

The office is temporarily housed at No. 50, Parliament Street, London, S.W., and (subject to the Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Statistical, and Labour Departments of the Board of Trade) is under the direction of Mr. T. Worthington. The Intelligence Branch endeavours, on application being made to it either personally or by letter, to supply information with regard to the following subjects, viz.:—Commercial Statistics: Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs: Excise and "Consumption" Duties: Port, Harbour, and Tonnage Dues, and other Charges on Shipping: Customs Regulations: Consular Fees: Forms of Certificates of Origin: Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers: Trading Licences: Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender: Foreign and Colonial Bounties: Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities, &c., &c.

In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of the present year, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Offices of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. The question of transferring the headquarters of this Branch from Westminster to the City is receiving the attention of the Board of Trade, and meanwhile verbal enquiries may be addressed to the Branch through the Temporary Enquiry Office which has been opened in the City Branch of the Imperial Institute at 49, Eastcheap, E.C.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch is also in communication with the Imperial Institute at South Kensington, of which Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., has been appointed director by the Board of Trade. Among the branches of work in charge of Professor Dunstan are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collections of these products which are exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at the City Branch.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch and intended for general information is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. In future, periodical supplements to the "Board of Trade Journal" will be issued, containing information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE.

January, 1903.